



Youth learn by doing through Wyoming 4-H Program opportunities

Youths enrolled in the Wyoming 4-H program acquire knowledge, develop life skills, and form attitudes to enable them to become self-directing, productive members of society.

Offered in every county, 4-H'ers learn a new skill through experiential learning. The Wyoming 4-H Program knows this type of education well.

What is 4-H

4-H is an informal, practical, learning-by-doing educational program for youth. Youth learn through project work in their areas of interest. 4-H educators are part of University of Wyoming Extension and direct the program through county offices. Each county program

is slightly different based on resource availability, but the same general principles guide the program.

Youth enroll every fall, with the 4-H year starting October 1. Families join a club once enrolled. Most often, youth will join a club based on where the club meets, the time of the meetings, or a specific interest the club has. Most clubs meet on a regular set time throughout the year.

A 4-H youth can select from many project areas. Projects are often designed to be led by 4-H volunteers with oversight from a 4-H educator. Youth meet with the adult volunteers and other interested youth throughout the year to learn more about their project areas.

Mary Louise Wood, UW Extension



Finding adult volunteers for some project areas is hard. If a volunteer is not available, youth can work independently on project areas guided by 4-H curriculum books.

For example, a youth interested in working with leather could attend meetings led by a leader(s) who have



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WHAT IS 4-H?

Wyoming 4-H

empowers young people with skills to lead for a lifetime.

It's a research-based experience that includes a mentor, a hands-on project, and a meaningful leadership opportunity.

knowledge related to leathercraft. Youth learn background information on the subject. For leathercraft, 4-H members learn how to use leather tools and techniques and design their own crafts. These skills are gained through hands-on experiences in an informal setting. Items made can then be showcased at various events such as county fairs.

Supplies are sometimes provided to 4-H members by the county, or youth are asked to get their own supplies or share. The 4-H'er may be asked to pay a small fee to replace some of the materials if a leader or county provides supplies.

4-H volunteers

4-H volunteers might be parents of enrolled 4-H members, community members, or other adults with expertise or even just interest in a project area. You don't have to be an expert to volunteer with 4-H, just someone who is interested in learning and helping youth learn. Youth meet with leaders during events like the leathercraft meeting mentioned above. Being a volunteer does not need to be a huge time commitment; it could be as simple as teaching three young girls how to use three different cake decorating tips. Volunteers are also needed to serve as judging team coaches, overnight chaperones, trip chaperones, activity leaders, and so much more.

Please contact your local UW Extension office (www.uwyo.edu/uwe/county/) if interested in the Wyoming 4-H adult volunteer leader component. Those wanting to become leaders must pass a background screening and attend trainings. New leaders have the opportunity to learn from more experienced leaders for a specific program once they join. Even if you don't feel you have a talent or expertise, there is a place for you to help in 4-H!

Opportunities

Wyoming 4-H offers 49 project areas for youth to learn and gain knowledge. There are traditional projects areas such as beef, sheep, and swine that many associate with 4-H, but there are many other project areas as well. Some of the 49 different project areas are aerospace, computers, robotics, archery, dogs, entomology, and fabric and fashion.

A complete list of projects can be found at bit.ly/wyo-4H-projects. The list is extensive, so there is sure to be at least one project area well-suited for any youth. 4-H even offers a project called self-determined that allows youth to identify their own areas to explore if they don't find something they are interested in.

Wyoming 4-H does not stop with club and project meetings. Wyoming 4-H provides opportunities for youth to travel to various contests and events around the state. There are even opportunities to attend leadership and learning opportunities throughout the United States and even internationally. There is no lack of opportunities for youth who want to learn and experience new opportunities.

4-H has been a long-standing program within Wyoming and the United States. There are many examples of successful adults who can trace back many of their skills and knowledge from their experiences when they were members of 4-H. To learn more about joining a local 4-H experience contact your local UW Extension office (www.uwyo.edu/uwe/county/) or enroll online through ZSuite (<https://4h.zsuite.org>).

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